



Department of State

EXCISE

TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:RHARRISON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/30/85 (GOODBY, JAMES E.)

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: (S) SOVIET GROUND UNIT IN CUBA

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. FYI. WE HAVE HAD INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE FOR SEVERAL

NODIS REVIEW	
Cat. A	Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B	Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C	Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date:	13 Feb 1984

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY	J. L. SMITH+ DATE NOV 3 1984
CLASSIFICATION EXTENDED	
RECEIVED	DATE OADR
TS AUTH.	J. BURICE REASON(S) CDC MEMO
EMPOWER EXISTING MARKINGS	<input type="checkbox"/> 5/13/83
DEClassIFIED	RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED	IN PAR. 8-1
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

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YEARS OF THE PRESENCE IN CUBA OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE A
SOVIET UNIT OF SOME TYPE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WE HAVE NOW
CONFIRMED THAT THE UNIT IS INDEED SOVIET AND PROBABLY
NUMBERS BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 MEN. WE REMAIN UNCERTAIN
AS TO ITS MISSION AND THE PRECISE DATE OF ITS PLACEMENT
IN CUBA. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WAS IN CUBA BY
AT LEAST 1976. IN ADDITION TO THE "BRIGADE" WE ESTIMATE
THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,500 - 2,000 SOVIET MILITARY
ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

3. WORD OF THE UNIT'S PRESENCE HAS LEAKED TO AVIATION
WEEK, AND WE EXPECT IT TO BE PICKED UP RAPIDLY BY THE
REST OF THE MEDIA. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONVEY
TO THE ALLIES/HOST COUNTRIES AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY THE
FOLLOWING (FYI - THESE SAME TALKING POINTS HAVE BEEN
USED IN BRIEFING THE CONGRESS):

5. -- WE HAVE RECENTLY CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE IN CUBA
OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SOVIET COMBAT UNIT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A SOVIET GROUND FORCES
UNIT ON THE ISLAND.

-- ELEMENTS OF THE UNIT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THERE
SINCE AT LEAST 1976. WE ESTIMATE THAT IT CONSISTS
OF 2,000 TO 3,000 MEN. IN ADDITION, WE ESTIMATE
THAT THE SOVIETS MAINTAIN BETWEEN 1,500 AND 2,000

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MILITARY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

-- AS CURRENTLY CONFIGURED AND SUPPORTED, THE UNIT
POSES NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

-- GROUND FORCES PER SE DID NOT FIGURE IN OUR
BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH
WERE DIRECTED TOWARD OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

-- NONETHELESS, WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET COMBAT FORCES IN CUBA.

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-- WE HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS EXPRESSED TO THE SOVIETS OUR CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. ON AUGUST 29 WE INFORMED THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT THE BRIGADE'S PRESENCE WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON THIS SUBJECT.

-- WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CUBA TO ENSURE THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

6. FOR NATO: YOU MAY TELL THE PERPREPS THAT OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SOVIET PRESENCE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL KEEP USNATO FULLY INFORMED AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

VANCE

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